



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

**FULL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2009
3:30 – 6:00 PM
URBAN LEAGUE CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

Commissioners

Anne Ashmore-Hudson, Chair
Marvin Bowser
Christopher Cowan
Lou Hill Davidson
Rebecca Fishman
Rhona Wolfe Friedman, Vice Chair
Rogelio A. Maxwell
Bernard Richardson
Michael R. Sonnenreich
Judith F. Terra

Staff

Gloria Nauden, Executive Director
Lamont Harrell, Director of Partnerships
Rachel Dickerson, DC Creates Public Art Manager
Dolores Kendrick, Poet Laureate
Catherine Cleary, Legislative & Grants Manager
Moshe Adams, Legislative & Grants Assistant
Emily Perry, Legislative & Grants Intern

- I. Call to Order:
Anne Ashmore-Hudson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes:
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- III. Chair's Report:
The Chair directed the Executive Director, Gloria Nauden to give her report.
- IV. Director's Report:
The Executive Director, Gloria Nauden, introduced Cara Brown, executive assistant and Marketing Coordinator . She also announced the resignation of Shai Littlejohn as Deputy Director and that the commission is currently accepting resumes to fill the position.
- V. International Arts and Artists:
Catherine Cleary, Director of Grants and Legislative Affairs, presented the funding request.

YES/NO/MAYBE

Motion passed Unanimous

Commissioner Marvin Bowser, introduced the program and the budget request of \$18,000.

VII. Asian American Artists Gateways #1:

Motion passed Unanimous

1:23pm Commissioner Marvin Bowser presented the program and budget request. The program is a dance program for 20 girls (ages 10-13). Commissioner Bowser also noted they have additional financial support from UVC of \$23,000. The commissioners discussed if the fund request was too high based on the program. Commissioner Davidson suggested a grant of \$15,000.

IX. The Links:

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- X. East of the River Steel Band:
1:32pm Commissioner Ashmore-Hudson presented the project and budget request. Commissioner Terra raised concern of the credentials of the master artist. Commissioner Ashmore-Hudson raised concern of cost of travel. Commissioner Bowser noted that the information was put together in a short amount of time. Commissioner Freeman proposed a grant of \$12,000.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XI. Joy of Motion:
1:41pm Executive Director Gloria Nauden presented the organization, their goals and budget request. She noted that they lost funding that helped them to serve 50 girls. The budget they requested will fund a summer program for 20 weeks and that they raised \$12,000 on their own. She also mentioned they plan on using a large amount on staffing to which Commissioner Freidman objected noting that the commission isn't responsible for funding staff. Commissioner Ashmore-Hudson suggested a grant of \$15,000.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XII. The Dance Institute of Washington:
1:45pm Commissioner Ashmore-Hudson presented the project and budget request of \$20,000. She noted that \$15,000 is a fair grant amount.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XIII. Washington National Opera:
1:46pm Director of Grants, Catherine Cleary read the budget request of \$30,000. Commissioner Terra inquires "Who has been funding them for the past decade?" Clearly also notes that the application is incomplete. Commissioner Terra and Commissioner Wolf motion to put this applicant on hold.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XIV. DC Wheel Productions/Dance Place:
1:49pm Commissioner Bowser presented the project and the budget request of \$10,000. Commissioners Wolf, Terra and Hill-Davidson all motion to grant the full amount.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XV. Woodley House:
1:51pm Commissioner Hill-Davidson presented the organization and the budget request of \$12,000. The commissioner notes that this is the only licensed residential transitional care facility in DC. After review Commissioners Wolf and Terra agree that it is a great project but too expensive. There is a discussion of what is the standard rate for video and photography. Commissioner Maxwell affirms that the requested amount is fair and the rate outlined is below the market value. There is a point of clarification by Executive Director, Gloria Nauden that "Whoever sits on the board cannot vote".
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- XVI. The Meridian House
1:58pm Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon presented the project and budget request of \$10,000. A discussion ensues regarding a previous concern of travel security and insurance. It seems that the funds will cover salaries and fringe benefits. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon notes that the application is incomplete. Commissioner Wolf suggested that no grant is given and they re-apply for the Arts Education competitive grant.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XVII. The Black Women's Playwright Group:
2:08pm Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon presented the project and budget request of \$25,000. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon notes that the applicant is reliable and will deliver a high quality creative and interesting project and that she is deserving of the full \$25,000.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XVIII. Fotoweeek:
2:12pm Commissioner Wolf presented the project and the budget request of \$5,000. Commissioner Ralls raises the question "Why didn't they apply in the competitive grants?". The commissioners discuss the time/money ratio of the groups spending, Commissioner Wolf also noted that the printing service is donated to the group. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon clarifies that the request is only for \$5,000. The commissioners agree that \$5,000 is a reasonable request.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XIX. Children's Press Line:
2:16pm Commissioner Ralls presented the program and its budget request of \$30,000. The commissioners all asked for more details. Commissioner Ralls notes the wide variety of children involved. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon motioned to grant the full amount requested.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XX. Youth Orchestra of Washington:
2:22pm Commissioner Wolf presented the program and budget request. Commissioner Boswser states that the commission should support that. Commissioners Ralls and Ashmore-Husdon question the amount. It is decided that \$0 is granted.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XXI. The Ellington Fund:
2:25pm In the absence of Director of Grants, Catherine Cleary Commissioners Wolf and Fishman presented the project and budget request of \$15,000. They note that the school lost funding and had to make cuts to music teachers. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon motions to grant the full amount. Commissioner Bowser clarifies that the school must be made aware that they must spend the money the next fiscal year.

- XXII. French – American Cultural Foundation:
2:32pm In the absence of Grant Manager, Lisa Richards Toney, this program is skipped.
- XXIII. GALita:
2:32pm Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon presented the program and the budget request. She notes that she is willing to grant \$15,000. A conclusion is made that more information is needed to make a solid decision. The grant amount stands at \$12,000 and remains tentative.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XXIV. Royal Kennedy Rodgers:
2:39pm Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon presented the individual and budget request for \$10,000 and notes that this opportunity will be in the commissions best interests. Commissioners Mpulabusi and Bowser inquire about her total budget, which is \$250,000 and notes she may need more than \$10,000. Commissioner Hill Davidson motions to give her \$10,000 and follow up.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XXV. French – American Cultural Foundation:
2:45pm Grant Manager, Lisa Richards Toney presented the project and budget request. Discussion ensues and leads to the conclusion that monies will be best allocated to local DC artists and that past experience with foreign artists is ‘last minute’ and frustrating. There is a vote on whether to grant the money.
Vote NO. Unanimous.
- XXVI. International Arts and Artists:
3:18pm Director of Grants, Catherine Cleary presented the project and budget request. Commissioner Terra notes that she had been in touch with David Wilcock, they applied for \$30, 000 and wasn’t granted and that this is an org that has the capability to produce. A discussion ensues regarding the budget narrative which is unclear and seems to have hidden agenda. Commissioner Terra motions to vote this grant application down. Commissioner Ralls notes that this applicant was granted funds before based on referencing her name.
Vote NO. Unanimous.
- XXVII. Helping Inner Kids Succeed:
3:30pm Commissioner Mpul presented the program and budget request of \$30,000. He notes that this is very important because this is affecting kids that reside in environments where there are a lot of destructive behaviors. Commissioner Wolf states that this is an amazing program, is extremely cheap, and that there are very little programs similar programs and motions to vote yes.
Vote Yes. Unanimous

- XXVIII. Pearl Coalition:
3:38pm Commissioner Mpul presented the program and budget request. Commissioner Terra notes this is very exciting story to tell but she's not sure how significant this is in consideration to DC community as whole and suggests to fund it but with cuts. Commissioners Wolf and Terra motion for \$10,000. Commissioner Mpul notes if \$15,000, the art will be seen all over the city until the visitor's center is completed.
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- XXIX. Washington East Foundation:
3:45pm Comm Mpul presented the program and budget request. Commissioner Wolf notes that the art funded will cover public eye sores. Commissioner Bowser notes that there is a bigger community issue solved with this project. Renovated / abandon areas tend to become crime centers and this will counteract that. Commissioners Wolf and Terra motion to grant \$15,000.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XXX. Life Starts Youth & Family Services:
3:48pm Comm Mpul presented the program and budget request. Commissioner Wolf raises the question of cost of administrative costs. Commissioner Mpul notes the program needs support and equipment and shares further budget detail. A discussion ensues covering the actual need of therapeutic arts programs and excessive administrative costs. Commissioner Mpul notes that the admin is only about half (\$5,300) and requested that they fund it at \$9,700 for the arts programming.
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- XXXI. Diamonds Xcel Magazine:
4:00pm Comm Mpul presented the program and budget request. The commissioners discuss the legitimacy of this project based on missing information and unclear project goals and objectives. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon motions to halt and return to this topic later.
Motion passed Unanimous
- XXXII. Youth Development and Capacity Building:
4:14pm Comm Mpul presented the program and budget request. The discussion regarding this small portion of money being easily absorbed into the larger \$2 million budget with no benefit for DC artists and what happens in the case that the larger project doesn't get realized. Commissioner Ralls motions to vote.
Vote NO Unanimous
- XXXIII. From Life pieces to Masterpieces:
4:23pm Comm Mpul presented the program and budget request. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon states that he is a great artist. Being that we funded another project of his, how should we support him. The discussion carries into the process of shipping large scale art installations, rental spaces, the jurisdiction in which we support artists outside

of the DC area. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon motions for \$5,000. Commissioner
Mpul motions for \$8,000. Commissioner Ashmore-Husdon motions for a vote on \$5,000.
Vote Yes unanimous

XXXIV.

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